Signing of extradition treaties by India

*479. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Extradition Act came into force in 1962, but India has so far entered into only seven formal treaties with foreign countries for extradition and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for not entering into such treaties with other countries like Hong-Kong, Dubai which are favourite boltholes; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for entering into extradition treaties with other countries also; if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes Sir, on having received the assent of the President on 15th September, 1962, the Indian Extradition Act came into force on 5th January 1963. India has extradition treaties with Canada, U.K., Netherlands, Belgium, Nepal, Bhutan, Switzerland and U.S.A., which are currently operative. Apart from treaties, India also has extradition arrangements with Tanzania, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Germany and Sweden, by extending the application of the Indian Extradition Act, 1962 to these countries.

(b) and (c) Proposals for entering into extradition treaties with Hong Kong, Germany, France, Spain, Thailand, Oman, Romania and Bulgaria are under consideration. Extradition treaties with U.S.A. (New treaty) and Russian Federation have been finalised and are under process for signing. Treaties with U.A.E. and Hong Kong have also been finalised and may be signed in the near future depending on the convenience of the other party.

Satellite-Based Gramsat Network

*480. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the salient features of the satellite-based GRAMSAT (G-SAT) network proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): Indian Space Research Organisation is working of the concept of a Gramsat Satellite Network which could provide communications support for integrated rural development.

Gramsat will be a network providing area specific communications support to rural development activities such as water shed development, health, hygiene, women and child development including training of primary teacher, Panchyati Raj elected memebers, Anganwadi workers, farmers and village level health workers. Gramsat network will use the transponders available on the Indian Satellite like INSAT.

The concerned Ministries/Departments at the Centre and the State level as well as district level administration will be associated with the evolution of the system.

Exploration for Nuclear Minerals

3494. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of exploration work for minerals used for nuclear energy and the State which are the source for these minerals;

(b) what other nuclear minerals apart from Uranium and Thorium, are being explored;

(c) what is our progress in developing and utilising Nuclear fuels in Power Plants; and